

Louis Flores
34-21 77th Street, No. 406
Jackson Heights, New York 11372
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1 (929) 279-2292

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02 June 2017

Honorable John Koeltl, United States District Judge,
United States District Court - Southern District of New York,
500 Pearl Street,
New York, New York 10007-1312.

Dear Hon. Judge Koeltl :

**Re : Louis Flores v. United States Department of Justice
No. 17-CV-0036 (Koeltl, J.)**

I am *pro se* Plaintiff in the above-captioned case. As explained to the Court at the commencement of this litigation, Plaintiff appears *in forma pauperis*. One of the challenges facing Plaintiff has been staving off eviction by his Landlord's managing agent, **Herbert Donner from ADI Management, Inc.** Plaintiff has been busy raising and borrowing money to pay all of his rent and to fight a motion for legal fees filed by his Landlord. Plaintiff's Landlord commenced a rent collection petition against Plaintiff after having refused one month's rent and before Plaintiff paid the following month's rent. Since then, Plaintiff's Landlord has, at times, refused other rent and denied Plaintiff documents that have prolonged that action. See Ex. A. Because Plaintiff reports about corruption, Plaintiff has often reported about the corrupting role of campaign donations from real estate interests. In previous reporting, Plaintiff revealed that at least one tenant in another building managed by Plaintiff's Landlord's managing agent has likewise experienced having her rent refused by Landlord's managing agent.^{1/} The other tenant that has experienced having her rent refused is a tenant organiser. Because Plaintiff has been dealing with this, Plaintiff failed to respond to Defendant's request for an extension of time.

As the Court is aware, and as counsel for Defendant has admitted, Defendant has denied and continues to deny Plaintiff access to documents that Defendant has described as responsive to the FOIA Request that is the subject of this litigation. (Dkt. Nos. 18, 20). But Plaintiff has no way of knowing whether the documents being withheld are responsive or not, because the documents have never been received and reviewed by Plaintiff. Plaintiff requested four categories of documents about the speeches of former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. (Dkt. No. 2, ¶ 14). Counsel for Defendant admits that such records exist, but

^{1/} See Louis Flores and Susan Lippman, *Tenants of Brooklyn apartment building protest superintendent accused of harassment*, Progress Queens (01 Nov 2016), <http://www.progressqueens.com/news/2016/10/30/tenants-of-brooklyn-apartment-building-protest-superintendent-accused-of-harassment>.

Defendant has refused to produce records to Plaintiff in a method that can be accessible to Plaintiff. When Plaintiff objected to Defendant's misconduct, Plaintiff requested an extension of the time to allow Plaintiff to review the documents *once they were produced*, so that Plaintiff could review the documents for completeness. At no time did Plaintiff ever provide written consent to extend deadlines to allow Defendant to continue to withhold the production of documents that have been denied to Plaintiff, as claimed by Defendant, namely, "in the event the Government needed additional time to complete its release of responsive materials." (Dkt. No. 22 at 1-2). It is a blatant misrepresentation for counsel for the Defendant to inform the Court that Plaintiff consented, when Plaintiff never provided any consent for Defendant to continue to withhold records from Plaintiff. Counsel has invoked technological limitations as a pretext for withholding records when all along the Government could have printed these documents out and delivered hardcopy records to Plaintiff, an option that counsel for the Defendant has never exercised, precisely because Defendant is only interested in withholding responsive records to deny Plaintiff the opportunity to review the documents for completeness. What Defendant seeks by denying Plaintiff the review of responsive documents for completeness is to deny Plaintiff an opportunity to compel the release of responsive documents before Defendant begins its arduous dispositive motion practise that will place the *in forma pauperis, pro se* Plaintiff at a legal disadvantage before this Court. Surely, the Court knows that this is how this is going to play out. Because of the Court's stated bias for Defendant, it is apparent that the Court is going to subvert FOIA to "protect the reputation" of the U.S. Attorney's Office, as the Court indicated at the Initial Conference.

Plaintiff seeks records responsive to the FOIA Request, as stated in the FOIA Request, in part, because, "There have been news reports in which U.S. Attorney Bharara has highlighted the [importance] of the work done by his office. In some of these news reports, U.S. Attorney Bharara has also placed an emphasis on his speech-making as acting as a form of a [deterrence] of corruption, thereby making his speeches a critical part of his duties as a significant Federal Government official," adding that, "Because some of these speeches take place in private setting, in locations outside of New York, or behind the paywalls of conventions that charge membership and/or registration fees, often the public or the media are unable to attend to record or Livestream the *entirety* of the speeches made by U.S. Attorney Bharara, necessitating this request," and that "disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest, because it « is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the [G]overnment »" See Ex. B.

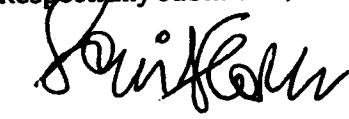
An important way for the public to be informed about the workings of Government, as provided for by law, is by the release of documents in response to FOIA Requests, as in the instant litigation. It is material at this point to note that Plaintiff has sought other records to investigate, in his capacity as a reporter, whether the Government is complying with the law. Plaintiff has made one FOIL Request to the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York, seeking records about proposed Municipal legislation, the **Small Business Jobs Survival Act**, records which the Mayor's office effectively refuses to produce due to arbitrarily extending its time to respond, now scheduled until after Election Day 2017, an act that obviously serves Mayor Bill de Blasio's political purposes. See Ex. C.

Hon. Judge John Koeltl
United States District Court - Southern District of New York
02 June 2017
Page 3

In still yet another FOIL Request made to the New York City Commission on Human Rights, seeking records of housing discrimination complaints, the City agency has made it arduous for Plaintiff to be provided records. See Ex. D. The only reason Government officials or agencies would violate open records laws would be to hide misconduct or corruption. There is no other interpretation that can be drawn from the violation of open records laws. At the Initial Conference, when the Court said that we would need to "protect the reputation" of the U.S. Attorney's Office, what good reputation is there, if the U.S. Attorney's Office is essentially on par with Mayor de Blasio and the City Human Rights Commission, in its lack of compliance with open records laws? The only way the public will learn whether the U.S. Attorney's Office is not trying to hide misconduct or corruption is for the responsive records to be released. If the Court truly cared about the reputation of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Court will see that by countenancing the violation of FOIA, the Court will cause the public to become suspect about Defendant's and the Court's motivations. And the public will become suspect, because I will write about this.

In the absence of compliance with open records laws, Government official and agencies will not be held accountable for their failure to act in the public interest. As it stands, New York City tenants -- individuals and small businesses -- are being kept in the dark about why tenants and tenant organisers get harassed, why tenants' rents get refused or jacked up, or why discrimination and evictions that violate fair housing laws are tolerated. Because investigating and prosecuting cases of real estate corruption was just one reported aspect of the work of former U.S. Attorney Bharara, the public has a right to know what were his ideas, thoughts, and interpretations of what the law is or what the law is not, particularly as it applied to real estate corruption, if at all. Perhaps responsive records would show this, and the public would become informed about one important area that is obviously in the public interest. But the public will not know this for sure, until the responsive records are produced. Until the public sees the responsive records, all that is known is that the U.S. Attorney's Office has an interest in hiding records from the public. The Court may think it is protecting the reputation of the U.S. Attorney's Office, but, by countenancing Defendant's misconduct, all the Court is doing is making it known to the public that Defendant has records to hide, and that Court agrees. In the meantime, other Government officials and agencies, like Mayor de Blasio and the City Human Rights Commission, can follow the example set by Defendant -- and keep violating open records laws, at the cost to the public, which is trying to find out why, in part, corruption, including landlord corruption, is tolerated. Will this be the final reputation of the former U.S. Attorney -- keeping the public in the dark?

Respectfully submitted,



Louis Flores

cc : Rebecca Tinio, Assistant U.S. Attorney (via E-mail)

EXHIBIT A

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS-PART P

DOUBLE A PROPERTY ASSOC. 77TH ST. LLC
Petitioner,

X
Index #69959/16
AFFIRMATION IN
OPPOSITION TO
CROSS MOTION

-against-

LOUIS FLORES, ET AL

Respondent

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)SS.:
COUNTY OF QUEENS)

DAVID S. HARRIS, an Attorney duly licensed and admitted to practice law in all of the Courts of the State of New York, does hereby affirm the following under penalties of perjury:

1. I am the attorney for the petitioner in the above-captioned proceeding and am fully familiar with all of the facts set forth herein.
2. This affirmation is submitted in opposition to Petitioner's Cross-motion for attorney's fees, and in further support of Respondent's Order to Show Cause, dated May 17, 2017, which seeks to vacate the judgment and warrant and dismiss the proceeding.
3. With regard to Petitioner's request for attorney's fees, I respectfully request that said motion be denied.
4. Petitioner annexed a "Statement of Account," dated May 16, 2017, to its Cross-Motion, as Exhibit "3." The statement is vague, and does not delineate the services provided or how the charged are calculated, and the fees are inflated. Several entries, totaling \$2,400.00, are simply entitled "Professional Service," and account for almost one half (1/2) of the "Statement of Account."

Several entries, totaling \$2,400.00, are simply entitled "Professional Service," and account for almost one half (1/2) of the "Statement of Account."

5. Moreover, the last sentence of Paragraph twenty (20) in the lease agreement, which is annexed to Petitioner's cross-motion as Exhibit "2," states that "***These fees and expenses shall be paid by You to Owner as additional rent within 30 days after You receive Owner's bill or statement.***" (emphasis added)
6. Other than annexing the "Statement of Account," dated May 16, 2017, to the Cross motion, the Petitioner has failed to comply with paragraph twenty (20) of the lease agreement. Petitioner has not alleged that any other bills or statements were tendered by the Petitioner or received by the Respondent, or that thirty (30) days has elapsed.
7. Furthermore, respondent maintains that the petitioner is not the successful party, in that the proceeding was initially commenced based upon the non-payment of two (2) months rent; July, 2016 (\$1,200.00) which was allegedly rejected by the Petitioner, and August, 2016 (\$1,350.00). Upon information and belief, the Petitioner has a history of holding on to checks and not crediting them to tenants accounts.
8. During the proceeding, the respondent also asked for a rent breakdown from the Petitioner to take to HRA, which the petitioner refused to do, resulting in a motion to compel, and a cross-motion to strike respondent's answer, allegedly "racking up" attorney's fees.
9. With regard to Respondent's motion to vacate the judgment and warrant and dismiss the proceeding, on March 29, 2017, the Honorable Judge John S. Lansden

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS-PART P

-----X
DOUBLE A PROPERTY ASSOC. 77TH ST. LLC
Petitioner,

Index #69959/16
AFFIRMATION IN
OPPOSITION TO
CROSS MOTION

-against-

LOUIS FLORES, ET AL

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DAVID S. HARRIS, an Attorney duly licensed and admitted to practice law in all of the Courts of the State of New York, does hereby affirm the following under penalties of perjury:

1. I am the attorney for the petitioner in the above-captioned proceeding and am fully familiar with all of the facts set forth herein.
2. This affirmation is submitted in opposition to Petitioner's Cross-motion for attorney's fees, and in further support of Respondent's Order to Show Cause, dated May 17, 2017, which seeks to vacate the judgment and warrant and dismiss the proceeding.
3. With regard to Petitioner's request for attorney's fees, I respectfully request that said motion be denied.
4. Petitioner annexed a "Statement of Account," dated May 16, 2017, to its Cross-Motion, as Exhibit "3." The statement is vague, and does not delineate the services provided or how the charged are calculated, and the fees are inflated. Several entries, totaling \$2,400.00, are simply entitled "Professional Service," and account for almost one half (1/2) of the "Statement of Account."

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5. Moreover, the last sentence of Paragraph twenty (20) in the lease agreement, which is annexed to Petitioner's cross-motion as Exhibit "2," states that "***These fees and expenses shall be paid by You to Owner as additional rent within 30 days after You receive Owner's bill or statement.***" (emphasis added)
6. Other than annexing the "Statement of Account," dated May 16, 2017, to the Cross motion, the Petitioner has failed to comply with paragraph twenty (20) of the lease agreement. Petitioner has not alleged that any other bills or statements were tendered by the Petitioner or received by the Respondent, or that thirty (30) days has elapsed.
7. Furthermore, respondent maintains that the petitioner is not the successful party, in that the proceeding was initially commenced based upon the non-payment of two (2) months rent; July, 2016 (\$1,200.00) which was allegedly rejected by the Petitioner, and August, 2016 (\$1,350.00). Upon information and belief, the Petitioner has a history of holding on to checks and not crediting them to tenants accounts.
8. During the proceeding, the respondent also asked for a rent breakdown from the Petitioner to take to HRA, which the petitioner refused to do, resulting in a motion to compel, and a cross-motion to strike respondent's answer, allegedly "racking up" attorney's fees.
9. With regard to Respondent's motion to vacate the judgment and warrant and dismiss the proceeding, on March 29, 2017, the Honorable Judge John S. Lansden

conducted a trial, which resulted in a Decision/Order, dated March 30, 2017.

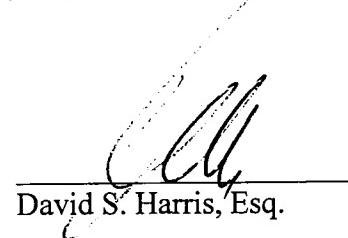
(Exhibit "A") The Petitioner was awarded a Judgment in the amount of

\$10,806.25, representing rental arrears through March 31, 2017.

10. The respondent was able to obtain the funds to satisfy the Judgment, which was mailed to Petitioner's attorney on May 15, 2017. He also mailed the rent for April, 2017 to Petitioner's attorney on April 28, 2017, but according to Petitioner's attorney it was rejected and sent back to him, although he did not receive it until almost one (1) month later.
11. On May 24, 2017, the Honorable Judge Lansden ordered Petitioner to accept the Judgment amount, and use and occupancy for April, 2017, in open Court, and directed that the balance (May, 2017 rent-\$1,495.00) be paid by May 31, 2017.
(Exhibit "B")
12. Even after Judge Lansden's decision, petitioner's attorney refused to accept the tender when the respondent went to its office, and he was forced to bring the payment to your affiant, who was able to have Bob Miller, Esq. accept it in the Civil Queens Courthouse. (Exhibit "C")
13. Based upon the foregoing, and in the interests of justice, I respectfully request that this Honorable Court exercise its judicial discretion and vacate the judgment and warrant, dismiss the proceeding, and deny Petitioner Cross motion for attorney's fees based upon the failure to prove said fees and satisfy a condition precedent to seeking said fees.

WHEREFORE, it is prayed this Honorable Court issue an Order vacating the judgment and warrant, dismiss the proceeding, and deny Petitioner Cross motion for attorney's fees, and for such other and different relief as may be just and equitable.

Dated: May 31, 2017
Queens, New York



David S. Harris, Esq.

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS

DOUBLE A PROPERTY ASSOCIATES
77TH STREET LLC.,

Petitioner

x
Index #69959/2016

AFFIDAVIT IN
OPPOSITION

-against-

LOUIS FLORES,

Respondent

x

LOUIS FLORES, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the Respondent in the above-captioned action.
2. This affidavit is submitted in opposition to Petitioner's Cross-motion for attorney's fees, and in further support of Respondent's Order to Show Cause, dated May 17, 2017, which seeks to vacate the judgment and warrant and dismiss the proceeding.
3. With regard to Petitioner's request for attorney's fees, I respectfully request that said motion be denied.
4. Petitioner annexed a "Statement of Account," dated May 16, 2017, to its Cross-Motion, as Exhibit "3." The statement is vague, and does not delineate the services provided or how the charged are calculated, and the fees are inflated. Several entries, totaling \$2,400.00, are simply entitled "Professional Service," and account for almost one half (1/2) of the "Statement of Account."
5. Moreover, the last sentence of Paragraph twenty (20) in the lease agreement, which is annexed to Petitioner's cross-motion as Exhibit "2," states that "**These**

fees and expenses shall be paid by You to Owner as additional rent within 30 days after You receive Owner's bill or statement." (emphasis added)

6. Other than annexing the "Statement of Account," dated May 16, 2017, to the Cross motion, the Petitioner has failed to comply with paragraph twenty (20) of the lease agreement. Petitioner has not alleged that any other bills or statements were tendered by the Petitioner or received by the Respondent, or that thirty (30) days has elapsed.
7. Furthermore, respondent maintains that the petitioner is not the successful party, in that the proceeding was initially commenced based upon the non-payment of two (2) months rent; July, 2016 (\$1,200.00) which was rejected by the Petitioner, and August, 2016 (\$1,350.00). The Petitioner has a history of holding on to checks and not crediting them to tenants accounts.
8. During the proceeding, your affiant also asked for a rent breakdown from the Petitioner to take to HRA, which the petitioner refused to do, resulting in a motion to compel, and a cross-motion to strike respondent's answer, allegedly "racking up" attorney's fees.
9. With regard to Respondent's motion to vacate the judgment and warrant and dismiss the proceeding, on March 29, 2017, the Honorable Judge John S. Lansden conducted a trial, which resulted in a Decision/Order, dated March 30, 2017. (Exhibit "A") The Petitioner was awarded a Judgment in the amount of \$10,806.25, representing rental arrears through March 31, 2017.
10. Your affiant was able to obtain the funds to satisfy the Judgment, which was mailed to Petitioner's attorney on May 15, 2017. Your affiant also mailed the rent

for April, 2017 to Petitioner's attorney on April 28, 2017, but according to Petitioner's attorney it was rejected and sent back to your affiant, although I did not receive it back until almost one (1) month later.

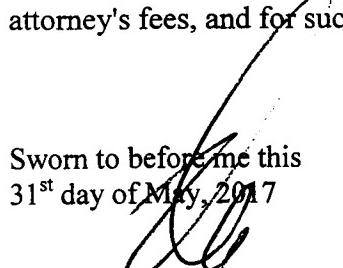
11. On May 24, 2017, the Honorable Judge Lansden ordered Petitioner to accept the Judgment amount, and use and occupancy for April, 2017, in open Court, and directed that the balance (May, 2017 rent-\$1,495.00) be paid by May 31, 2017. (Exhibit "B")
12. Even after Judge Lansden's decision, petitioner's attorney refused to accept the tender when I went to its office, and I was forced to bring the payment to my attorney, who was able to have Bob Miller, Esq. accept it in the Civil Queens Courthouse. (Exhibit "C")
13. Based upon the foregoing, and in the interests of justice, I respectfully request that this Honorable Court exercise its judicial discretion and vacate the judgment and warrant, dismiss the proceeding, and deny Petitioner Cross motion for attorney's fees based upon the failure to prove said fees and satisfy a condition precedent to seeking said fees.

WHEREFORE, it is prayed this Honorable Court issue an Order vacating the judgment and warrant, dismiss the proceeding, and deny Petitioner Cross motion for attorney's fees, and for such other and different relief as may be just and equitable.



Louis Flores

Sworn to before me this
31st day of May, 2017



Notary Public

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS

DOUBLE A PROPERTY ASSOCIATES
77TH STREET LLC.,

X

Index #69959/2016

Petitioner

-against-

LOUIS FLORES,

Respondent

X

ATTORNEY'S CERTIFICATION

DAVID S. HARRIS, ESQ., an attorney duly admitted to practice in all Courts of this State hereby affirms under the penalties of perjury:

FIRST: As an officer of the Court and pursuant to 22 NYCRR §130-1.1(a)(b), the undersigned attorney certifies that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the presentation of the within AFFIDAVIT AND AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION or the contentions therein are not frivolous as defined in subsection (c) of §130-1.1.

Dated: Queens, New York
May 31, 2017

DAVID S. HARRIS

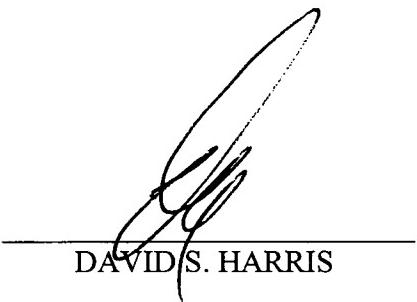


EXHIBIT "A"

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS: PART P

Double A Property Associates-
77th Street LLC

Petitioner,
-against-

INDEX # 69959/16

Louis Flores

Respondent

DECISION/ORDER

LANSDEN, J.

A trial was held before the Court. Petitioner was represented by counsel. Respondent represented himself. Initially, the Court finds that Petitioner has established that part of its **prima facie case** relating to serving a rent demand prior to the commencement of the instant proceeding. The Court found the process server to be credible. The Court did not find the issues raised by Respondent to have any merit.

Once this issue was resolved, the Court further determines that Petitioner met its **prima facie case** and that \$11,375.00 in rent is due through March 2017. It should be noted that Respondent did not dispute the arrears sought.

The Court further finds that Respondent is entitled to an abatement in the amount of \$568.75 for the defective radiator and leak under the kitchen sink. No abatement is granted for roaches as Respondent failed to demonstrate he ever signed up for the bi-monthly extermination service provided by Petitioner.

After deducting the abatement amount, Petitioner is awarded a final judgment in the amount of \$10,806.25 representing all rental arrears due through March 31, 2017. Issuance of the warrant of eviction is stayed five (5) days for payment. On default, the warrant may issue and execute after service of a marshal's notice of eviction.

This constitutes the decision and order of the court.

Dated: Queens, New York
March 30, 2017

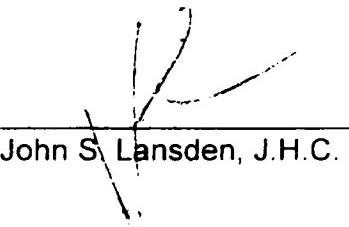

John S. Lansden, J.H.C.

EXHIBIT "B"

Civil Court of the City of New York
County of Queens
Part: Part P, Room: 201
Date: May 24, 2017



Index #: LT-069959-16/QU
Motion Seq #: 4

Decision/Order

Double A Property Associates - 77th Street LLC
Petitioner(s)

-against-
Louis Flores

Respondent(s)

Present: John S. Lansden
Judge

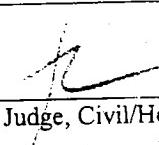
Recitation, as required by CPLR 2219(A), of the papers considered in the review of this OSC for:
restoring to the calendar for trial on a date certain

PAPERS	NUMBERED
Notice of Motion and Affidavits Annexed	_____
Order to Show Cause and Affidavits Annexed	_____
Answering Affidavits	_____
Replying Affidavits	_____
Exhibits	_____
Stipulations	_____
Other _____	_____
_____	_____

Upon the foregoing cited papers, the Decision/Order in this Motion is as follows:

7/13/17 in case number 597
Plaintiff & Plaintiff's wife - I do hereby make an Order:
Granting Plaintiff's motion to dismiss Plaintiff's wife.
Serve Plaintiff's wife with summons.
Proceed after 6/17/17. If no answer or motion filed.
Off of 5/20/17. Held in Court.

Date: 5/24/17


Judge, Civil/Housing Court

Generated: May 17, 2017

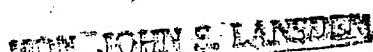

MUN. JOHN S. LANSDEN

EXHIBIT "C"

Civil Court of the City of New York
County of Queens
Part: Part P, Room: 201
Date: May 24, 2017



Index #: LT-069959-16/QU
Motion Seq #: 4

Decision/Order

Double A Property Associates - 77th Street LLC
Petitioner(s)

-against-
Louis Flores

Respondent(s)

Present: John S. Lansden
Judge

Recitation, as required by CPLR 2219(A), of the papers considered in the review of this OSC for:
restoring to the calendar for trial on a date certain

PAPERS	NUMBERED
Notice of Motion and Affidavits Annexed	_____
Order to Show Cause and Affidavits Annexed	_____
Answering Affidavits	_____
Replying Affidavits	_____
Exhibits	_____
Stipulations	_____
Other _____	_____

Upon the foregoing cited papers, the Decision/Order in this Motion is as follows:

77th Street LLC vs Louis Flores
Order to Show Cause and Affidavits Annexed
has resulted in a default
Proceedings in 67th Street vs Double A Property Associates LLC
is adjourned

Date: _____


Judge, Civil/Housing Court

Generated: May 17, 2017

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JUL 31 2017 JSL

Index #69959/16
CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS

DOUBLE A PROPERTY ASSOCIATES
77TH STREET LLC.
Petitioner,

-against-

LOUIS FLORES
Respondent

AFFIRMATION AND AFFIDAVIT IN OPPOSITION

DAVID S. HARRIS, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent
88-32 Sutphin Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11435
718-291-5544

EXHIBIT B

From: **Louis Flores** louis.flores@progressqueens.com
Subject: FOIA Request : Speeches of U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara (EOUSA) // Progress Queens
Date: 25 avril 2016 06:33
To: usaeo.foia.requests usaeo.foia.requests@usdoj.gov
Cc: James Margolin james.margolin@usdoj.gov, Louis Flores louis.flores@progressqueens.com



25 April 2016

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
Expedited Processing Requested

Ladies and Gentlemen :

Good morning, I submit the attached request under the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, covering **four (4) categories** of documents (A) (1-4) pertaining to the speeches made by U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara.

In this FOIA Request, I ask for expedited processing, and I make a request for a fee waiver. Accordingly, I look for a written determination to be made **within ten (10) days**.

If you have any questions about the requests for these four (4) categories of documents, **please do not hesitate to contact me today**. See 28 eCFR § 16.3(b). *See also Davis v. DHS*, No. 11-CV-0203, 2013, WL 3288418 (E.D.N.Y. June 27, 2013)(Ross, J.) (noting that if an agency has questions about a FOIA Request, the agency should contact the requestor).

Thank you kindly.

Best regards,

-- Louis

Louis Flores
Publisher
Progress Queens
louis.flores@progressqueens.com
1 (646) 400-1168

Web : <http://www.progressqueens.com>
Twitter : @ProgressQueens
Donate : <http://www.progressqueens.com/donate/>





Progress Queens, Inc.
34-21 77th Street, #406
Jackson Heights, New York 11372

Louis Flores
Publisher
louis.flores@progressqueens.com
1 (646) 400-1168

25 April 2016

VIA E-MAIL : USAEO.FOIA.REQUESTS@USDOJ.GOV

Susan B. Gerson, Acting Assistant Director,
FOIA/Privacy Unit,
Executive Office for United States Attorneys,
U.S. Department of Justice,
Room 7300, 600 E Street, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20530-0001.

Ladies and Gentlemen :

Re : REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
Expedited Processing Requested

This letter constitutes a request (« Request ») pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (« FOIA » or the « Act »), 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*, the U.S. Department of Justice implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 16.1 *et seq.*, the President's Memorandum of January 21, 2009, 74 Fed. Reg. 4683 (Jan. 26, 2009), and the Attorney General's Memorandum of March 19, 2009, 74 Fed. Reg. 49,892 (Sept. 29, 2009). I submit this Request as the publisher of Progress Queens, a news Web site.

This Request seeks information and records pertaining to speeches made by U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, the nation's top Federal prosecutor for the Southern District of New York.

Because U.S. Attorney Bharara gives inspiring and witty speeches, he has become a popular public speaker. At a speech delivered on 23 January 2015 at New York Law School, U.S. Attorney Bharara referred to the many speeches he has delivered, saying, in relevant

part, that he speaks « to business groups and to students at business school, » adding that he speaks « to hedge fund industry folks and heads of banks and people, who are involved in compliance and law enforcement. »

As a consequence of the important work done by U.S. Attorney Bharara and the prosecutors of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, there are understandably great media and public interest in his speeches. For U.S. Attorney Bharara's speech delivered at New York Law School on 23 January 2015, he spoke to a capacity audience. Every seat was taken, and there were attendees forced to stand at the far end of the large conference room for his speech. There might even have been an over-flow room to accommodate the many other individuals, who could not fit into the main conference room, where U.S. Attorney Bharara spoke that day then. The media, who was present that day, widely quoted from U.S. Attorney Bharara's speech, because his office had filed a criminal complaint against then New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Lower East Side) the day before, and the media and members of the public were eager to hear U.S. Attorney Bharara's remarks about the prevalence of political and campaign corruption in the New York State capital. A report filed by the journalist Marc Santora for *The New York Times* noted that U.S. Attorney Bharara lamented the loss of faith by voters in the face of political and campaign corruption, saying that, « When politician after politician after politician elected by the voters falls to criminal charges, people lose faith, » for example. See Marc Santora, *U.S. Attorney Criticizes Albany's 'Three Men in a Room' Culture*, *The New York Times* (Jan. 23, 2016), <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/24/nyregion/us-attorney-preet-bharara-criticizes-albanys-three-men-in-a-room-culture.html>. A report filed by the journalist Will Brederman for *The New York Observer* noted that U.S. Attorney Bharara encouraged citizens to get involved in demanding reforms to address political and campaign corruption, saying, « When so many of their leaders can be bought for a few thousand dollars, they should maybe be angry. » See Will Brederman, *Preet Bharara Blasts 'Three Men in a Room' After Sheldon Silver Arrest*, *The New York Observer* (Jan. 23, 2016), <http://observer.com/2015/01/preet-bharara-blasts-three-men-in-a-room-after-sheldon-silver-arrest/>.

Because of the great influence that U.S. Attorney Bharara exerts over Government and politics as a consequence of the corruption prosecutions brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office, he was named as the most powerful individual in the New York State capital in 2015 by *The New York Observer*. See Jillian Jorgensen et al., *State of Confusion : Albany's Top 40 Power Players*, *The New York Observer* (Oct. 6, 2015), <http://observer.com/2015/10/state-of-confusion-albanys-top-40/>.

Notwithstanding the prolific nature of U.S. Attorney Bharara's speech-making, information about the dates and places for the numerous speeches given by U.S. Attorney Bharara are not *completely* known, and, importantly, *complete* audio or video recordings, or *complete* written transcripts, of those speeches are not publicly-available. **Without this information, the public is unable to hear or read in U.S. Attorney Bharara's own words the important work being done by his office.** I make the following requests for information in hopes of filling that void.

A. Requested Records

1. All records and information pertaining to dates, times, hosts, locations, and other information pertaining to speeches made by U.S. Attorney Bharara since he commenced serving as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York ;
2. All records, *complete* recordings in any format whatsoever (either digital or physical), *complete* transcripts, and other information pertaining to the *complete* speeches made by U.S. Attorney Bharara, including any question and answer sessions, since he commenced serving as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York ;
3. All records and information pertaining to the costs of paid by the U.S. Attorney's Office for U.S. Attorney Bharara and his staff to travel to and attend the appearances made outside of Manhattan, where U.S. Attorney Bharara has delivered speeches, including, but limited to, air fare, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, entertainment, *per diem* allowances, and all other costs incidental or associated with speeches made by U.S. Attorney Bharara ; and
4. All records and information pertaining to the policies, procedures, customs, traditions, guidelines, or other instructions followed by staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York to record in any format whatsoever (either digital or physical), transcribe, and/or preserve any recordings and/or transcriptions of the speeches made by U.S. Attorney Bharara since he commenced serving as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

B. Application For Expedited Processing

I request expedited processing pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) ; 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.34(c). There is a « compelling need » for these records, because the information requested is urgently needed in order to be disseminated to inform the public about actual or alleged Federal Government activity. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v) ; *see also* 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(2) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(ii) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.34(c)(2).

In addition, the records sought relate to a « breaking news story of general public interest. » *See* 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(2)(i) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii)(A) ; *see also* 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(iv) (providing for expedited processing in relation to a « matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence »).

As a reporter, I am « primarily engaged in disseminating information » within the meaning of the statute and regulations. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II) ; 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(2) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(ii) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.34(c)(2). Dissemination of information to the public is a critical and substantial component of my mission and work, and I have written about the need for the speeches of U.S. Attorney Bharara to be made public. *See, e.g., Preet Bharara gives a public speech before the press, but there is no recording or transcript. Why ?, Progress Queens* (April 9, 2016),

<http://www.progressqueens.com/editorial/2016/4/9/preet-bharara-gives-a-public-speech-before-the-press-but-there-is-no-recording-or-transcript>. I publish a news Web site, Progress Queens ; several blogs ; produce YouTube videos ; and manage several Twitter feeds.

The records and information sought directly relate to a breaking news story of general public interest that concerns the important and relevant public remarks made by one of the Federal Government's most influential officers, U.S. Attorney Bharara, who routinely speaks about matters pertaining to fighting political, campaign, and corporate corruption, as well as about the criminal charges that Federal prosecutors with the U.S. Department of Justice or other prosecutors bring against notable individuals in Government and business. The records and information sought will help inform the public about these subject matters, particularly given that the work in which the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is engaged involves a history-making series of prosecutions targeting corruption that will lead to a wave of reforms in Government and business. For these reasons, the records and information sought relate to a « matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence. » See 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(iv).

There have been news reports in which U.S. Attorney Bharara has highlighted the importance of the work done by his office. In some of these news reports, U.S. Attorney Bharara has also placed an emphasis on his speech-making as acting as a form of a deterrence of corruption, thereby making his speeches a critical part of his duties as a significant Federal Government official. In a report published by *The New York Observer* about one of U.S. Attorney Bharara's speeches, it was noted that he « declared today that his corruption investigations would spur the improvement of a political system that he said had « broken down. » ». The same report further noted that U.S. Attorney Bharara argued « that raising the public's awareness of corruption is part of his job. » That news report quoted U.S. Attorney Bharara as saying, in relevant part, during his speech that, « So whether it's gang violence or cyber crime or national security or drug trafficking or a prescription pill epidemic or fraud on Wall Street, it's fundamentally important to talk about those issues so that ... we are not just focusing on prosecuting crime but also preventing and deterring [...] and raising public awareness is a central part of that responsibility. » See Ross Barkan, *Preet Bharara Says He'll Spur Improvement of Political System That Has « Broken Down, »* *The New York Observer* (April 24, 2015), <http://observer.com/2015/04/preet-bharara-says-hell-spur-improvement-of-political-system-that-has-broken-down/>. Despite the importance U.S. Attorney Bharara has placed on his speeches, his office does not uniformly post recordings or transcripts of his speeches online. A transcript exists for remarks he provided before a public hearing held by the Moreland Commission. See Preet Bharara, *U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara Testifies At The Public Hearing Of The Moreland Commission To Investigate Public Corruption*, U.S. Department of Justice (Sept. 18, 2013), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/speech/us-attorney-preet-bharara-testifies-public-hearing-moreland-commission-investigate>. See also Preet Bharara, *Prepared Remarks Of U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara Public Corruption In New York : More Than A Prosecutor's Problem* Citizens Crime Commission, U.S. Department of Justice (April 22, 2013), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/speech/prepared-remarks-us-attorney-preet-bharara-public-corruption-new-york-more> (making publicly-available a transcript of prepared remarks made by U.S. Attorney

Bharara at a speech delivered before an event hosted by the Citizens Crime Commission). However, similar publicly-available recordings or transcripts do not exist for all of his speeches.

Because some of these speeches take place in private setting, in locations outside of New York, or behind the paywalls of conventions that charge membership and/or registration fees, often the public or the media are unable to attend to record or Livestream the *entirety* of the speeches made by U.S. Attorney Bharara, necessitating this request. In the past, U.S. Attorney Bharara has delivered speeches in Stanford, California ; Frankfort, Kentucky ; and in the resort town of Saratoga Springs, New York, for example. See Stanford Graduate School of Business, *U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara on Leading Ethical Organizations*, YouTube (March 2, 2015), <https://youtu.be/NuWj6QmOra8> ; Rebecca Davis O'Brien, *Preet Bharara, in Kentucky, Rails Against Corruption*, The Wall Street Journal (Jan. 6, 2016), <http://www.wsj.com/articles/preet-bharara-goes-to-kentucky-to-speak-about-corruption-1452055126>. See also Nathan Tempey, *The FBI Is Investigating de Blasio's Fundraising, Too*, Gothamist (April 9, 2016), http://gothamist.com/2016/04/09/de_blaasio_fund-raising_corruption.php (providing only *one quote* out of the *entire* speech made by U.S. Attorney Bharara in Saratoga Springs, New York).

In comparison, other significant Federal Government officials follow policies for making their speeches publicly-available. For example, Federal Reserve Bank officials post information about the date, location, and a transcript of their speeches on the World Wide Web, and this information is sortable by year and sometimes include hyperlinks to digital recordings of the speeches. See, e.g., Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, *Speeches of Federal Reserve Officials*, Federal Reserve Bank (2016), <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/2016speech.htm>. But for U.S. Attorney Bharara, such *complete*, publicly-available information does not appear to exist.

C. Application for Waiver or Limitation of Fees

I request a waiver of search, review, and duplication fees on the grounds that disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest, because it « is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. » See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) ; 22 C.F.R. 171.17(a) ; see also 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(k)(1) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.28(d) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.13(b)(2).

As discussed above, numerous news accounts reflect the considerable public interest in the requested records and information. Given the ongoing and widespread media attention to this issue, the records and information sought in the instant Request will significantly contribute to public understanding of the operations and activities of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York with regard to how it conducts its work to combat political, campaign, and business corruption. See 22 C.F.R. 171.17(a)(1) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(k)(1)(i) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.28(d) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.13(b)(2). Moreover, disclosure is not in my commercial interest. Any information disclosed by me as a result of this Request will be available to the public at no cost. Thus, a fee waiver would fulfill Congress's legislative intent in amending FOIA. See *Judicial Watch Inc. v. Rossitti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1312 (D.C. Cir. 2003) (« Congress amended FOIA to ensure that it be « liberally

Susan B. Gerson, Acting Assistant Director
FOIA/Privacy Unit
25 April 2016
Page 6 of 6

construed in favor of waivers for noncommercial requesters. » » (citation omitted)) ; OPEN Government Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-175, 121 Stat. 2524, § 2 (Dec. 31, 2007) (finding that « disclosure, not secrecy, is the dominant objective of the Act, » but that « in practice, the Freedom of Information Act has not always lived up to the ideals of that Act »).

I also request a waiver of search and review fees on the grounds that I qualify as a « representative of the news media, » and the records and information are not sought for commercial use. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(d). Accordingly, fees associated with the processing of the Request should be « limited to reasonable standard charges for document duplication. » See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) ; see also 32 C.F.R. § 286.28(e)(7) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.13(i)(2) ; 22 C.F.R. 171.15(c) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(d) (search and review fees shall not be charged to « representatives of the news media »).

I meet the statutory and regulatory definitions of a « representative of the news media » because I function as an « entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience. » See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)

* * *

Pursuant to applicable statute and regulations, I expect determination regarding expediting processing within 10 calendar days. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(ii)(I) ; 22 C.F.R. 171.12(b) ; 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(4) ; 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3) ; 32 C.F.R. § 1900.21(d).

If the Request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions to FOIA. We expect the release of all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. We reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please furnish all applicable records to :

Louis Flores
Progress Queens, Inc.
34-21 77th Street, No. 406
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

I affirm that the information provided supporting the request for expedited processing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sincerely,



Louis Flores

cc : James Margolin (via e-mail : james.margolin@usdoj.gov)

EXHIBIT C

openrecords@records.nyc.gov

5/30/2017 9:25 AM

[OpenRecords] Request FOIL-2016-002-00196 Extended

To louis.flores@progressqueens.com

The Mayor's Office has **extended** the time to respond to your FOIL request [FOIL-2016-002-00196](#) for the following reasons:
You can expect a response on or about Friday, November 17, 2017.

Additional Information:

Due to the volume of requests that we have received, we now estimate that we will be able to provide you with a determination on or before the above-mentioned date.

Please visit [FOIL-2016-002-00196](#) to view additional information and take any necessary action.

EXHIBIT D

Louis Flores <louis.flores@progressqueens.com>

3/16/2016 10:48 AM

RE: FOIL Request - Housing Discrimination Cases - Telephone Conference Summary

To Tito (CCHR) Sinha <tsinha@cchr.nyc.gov> Copy Seth (CCHR) Hoy <shoy@cchr.nyc.gov> •
Raymond (CCHR) Karlin <rkarlin@cchr.nyc.gov>

Hi,

This is just to recap our telephone conversation from this morning.

1/. The Commission on Human Rights will not waive the fees for producing records in response to my FOIL request. I said that it's been my experience that other municipal agencies waive their costs, and I was told, in response, that there are 81 closed case files, according to Ray, that are answerable to my FOIL request, and that the pages for some of these files range from tens to hundreds, that it would take "months" for these files to be redacted, that I would be responsible for still undetermined related copying costs, and that the agency should not bear the costs of providing records under FOIL. I was told that I would be only provided with closed files, because open files are exempted under FOIL, because their are still pending investigation.

2/. Seth said he had sent me on 22 February 2016 a list of the commissioner names and one line biographic information for each commissioner, which I was told was the standard information that would have been provided online on the Commission's Web site. I was told that there is a press release somewhere online with all the names of the commissioners. Seth promised to resend the 22 February 2016 e-mail, which I did not find in my inbox.

3/. There is no definite timeline for the production of the 81 answerable case files, because of redaction purposes. I was told that I have to be understanding that the Commission is understaffed, that there is no electronic record system, and that the Commission is paper-based. I replied that FOIL places the burden on compliance on the public agency, and a requester should not bear the burden of difficulties in responding to a FOIL request that are of an agency's own making. I was told that a more definite timeline could be estimated and provided to me in writing.

General : I was asked what "kind of story" am I writing, and I said that my request was for public records.

Potential compromise : Because the Commission was each of making it prohibitively expensive for me to receive copies of the 81 closed files and making it take prohibitively too long to potentially receive the copies, as a compromise, I requested whether it would be possible for the Commission to provide to me with one of its managerial reports that summarise the cases of housing discrimination. I was told that you have an antiquated database of limited use, described as a "poor system," that it has special codes not understood by the public, and that there is no summary report that gets produced from this database for the Commissioners. I asked about the existence of managerial reports that summarise cases before the Commission, and there was no answer. I asked if you could produce for me a list of the fields from the database, so that I could choose from these fields so that I could make a compromise request to receive existing information from this existing database.

I was offered to be provided a response as to whether the Commission could provide me a field list from its database by today, and I said, as a courtesy, that since I would be in meetings for the rest of today, I would give the Commission until tomorrow to provide me with a field list for its database.

I look forward to receiving a written estimate of how long it would take to receive the 81 redacted files, if they need to be processed, the field list, and the resending of Seth's 22 February 2016 e-mail with the promised information of names of the Commissioners and one line of biographical information for each commissioner, which I was told was the standard information that had been previously posted online on the Commission's Web site.

Thanks,

-- Louis

On March 15, 2016 at 2:33 PM "Sinha, Tito (CCHR)" <TSinha@cchr.nyc.gov> wrote:

Yes, 10 a.m. works. We will call you at this number, (646) 400-1168, at 10 a.m.

S. Tito Sinha ~ New York City Commission on Human Rights
t: 212-416-0130 | nyc.gov/humanrights



From: Louis Flores [mailto:louis.flores@progressqueens.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:16 PM
To: Sinha, Tito (CCHR)
Cc: Hoy, Seth (CCHR); Karlin, Raymond (CCHR)
Subject: RE: FOIL Request - Housing Discrimination Cases

Hi,

I'm working on a complex article today, but I will have time to speak tomorrow.

Let me know if 10 a.m. works.

Thanks,

-- Louis

On March 9, 2016 at 11:09 AM "Sinha, Tito (CCHR)" <TSinha@cchr.nyc.gov> wrote:

Louis,

We are also processing your request.

Please call us to discuss further.

Thanks,

S. Tito Sinha ~ New York City Commission on Human Rights

t: 212-416-0130 | nyc.gov/humanrights



From: Sinha, Tito (CCHR)

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:40 AM

To: 'Louis Flores'

Cc: Hoy, Seth (CCHR); Karlin, Raymond (CCHR)

Subject: RE: FOIL Request - Housing Discrimination Cases

Louis,

We just tried calling you to discuss your FOIL request. Please call us back as soon as you can.

Also, please be advised that agencies are authorized to charge fees for copies of records pursuant to Public Officers Law § 87(1)(b)(iii).

Tito Sinha

S. Tito Sinha ~ New York City Commission on Human Rights

t: 212-416-0130 | nyc.gov/humanrights



From: Louis Flores [mailto:louis.flores@progressqueens.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 5:06 PM

To: Sinha, Tito (CCHR)

Cc: Hoy, Seth (CCHR)

Subject: Re: FOIL Request - Housing Discrimination Cases

I can't do 11, but I can do 10:30 a.m. Call me on (646) 400-1168 when you are ready.

Thanks,

-- Louis

On March 8, 2016 at 3:01 PM "Sinha, Tito (CCHR)" <TSinha@cchr.nyc.gov> wrote:

Louis,

We've been trying to reach you to discuss the FOIL request but we have not heard from you.

Let's pick a time tomorrow to speak on the phone.

How about 11 a.m.?

Tito

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2016, at 2:34 PM, Louis Flores <louis.flores@progressqueens.com> wrote:

Hi,

Let me know when we can discuss how I can apply for a fee waiver.

I note that I received the acknowledgement on Feb. 12 that you received my FOIL request. How many days must pass before the Commission on Civil Rights violates FOIL for not processing my request ?

Thanks,

-- Louis

On February 26, 2016 at 12:08 PM Louis Flores <louis.flores@progressqueens.com> wrote:

Hi,

I was busy finishing a story, yesterday. I don't understand the need for delay ?

I am free anytime today before 3 p.m.

Let me know if you are available to speak today.

On February 23, 2016 at 1:36 PM "Hoy, Seth (CCHR)" <SHoy@cchr.nyc.gov> wrote:

Hi Louis,

Just called and left you a message about your latest email. Let me know when you have a second to talk. Thanks.

Seth Hoy - New York City Commission on Human Rights

P: 212.416.0156 | C: 347.421.0486 | www.nyc.gov/cchr



From: Louis Flores [mailto:louis.flores@progressqueens.com]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 1:07 PM

Cc: Hoy, Seth (CCHR); Karlin, Raymond (CCHR)

Subject: Re: FOIL Request - Housing Discrimination Cases

Hi,

I would like to receive the records I'm requesting, but I feel like the fee is not fair. How do I appeal your plans to assess fees?

In the meantime, I'd like to receive the information about the commissioners that was missing from the Web site last week.

I'm sending out a newsletter to my followers today about this.

Thanks,

-- Louis

On February 17, 2016 at 5:07 PM Louis Flores <louis.flores@progressqueens.com> wrote:

Hi, Seth and Ray --

I see that I did have Seth's e-mail, sorry.

Here is the link to the article, about which I spoke, where it was said that the City Council passed a bill (later signed into law by the mayor) requiring increased minimal reporting by the Commission on Human Rights :

LINK : <http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/03/8565245/council-bills-will-strengthen-human-rights-commission>

I will get back to you by Friday about my underlying FOIL request.

Thanks,

-- Louis

P.S. Looking forward to receiving the list of current commissioners and their bios (eventually), either on the Web site or a hardcopy.

On February 15, 2016 at 9:25 AM "Sinha, Tito (CCHR)" <TSinha@cchr.nyc.gov> wrote:

Hi Louis,

Ray and I will work with you on the FOIL request for the complaints you are seeking.

However, the request for the list of current commissioners and their bios should be addressed to our Communications Department. I am adding to the thread our Press Secretary Seth Hoy as you are a member of the press.

Please know that our offices are closed today and we will be in touch with you tomorrow.

Tito Sinha

Assistant General Counsel

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 15, 2016, at 8:46 AM, Louis Flores <louis.flores@progressqueens.com> wrote:

Hi,

I also need a list of all of the current commissioners, and when they began their commission, and a bio for each. That information is missing from the Commission Web site.

DEAD LINK : <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/about/commissioners.shtml>

Thanks,

-- Louis

On February 15, 2016 at 8:28 AM Louis Flores <louis.flores@progressqueens.com> wrote:

Hi,

I was busy finishing a major article. I will call you today, but I have two concerns already :

(A). You say that you have hundreds of discrimination cases, but I saw on your Web site that you only reported a few settlements for 2015. What happened to the hundreds of other complaints (that did not get reported as settled) ?

LINK : <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/settlements/2015.shtml>

(B). I'm a member of the press, and I would like to request a waiver of the copy charges. If there is a way to receive these documents in .PDF format in order to avoid the copy charge, I would appreciate it, because I'm sure these documents exist in .PDF or else can be scanned without having to produce any additional paper.

I will try to call you at about 1 p.m. today.

Thank you kindly.

Best regards,

-- Louis

On February 12, 2016 at 12:18 PM "Karin, Raymond (CCHR)"
<rkarlin@cchr.nyc.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Flores:

This acknowledges receipt of the above captioned FOIL request dated February 9, 2016. Since we have filed hundreds of housing discrimination cases since the beginning of 2014, we wish to speak to you to determine whether you wish to more specifically describe the records you are requesting.

At that point, we will then require twenty business days in which to reach a determination or an estimate of the time required to reach such a determination. Please also bear in mind that there is a charge of \$.25/page for any records provided in response to your request. Please call me to follow up on your request.

Raymond Karlin, Esq.
New York City Commission on Human Rights
100 Gold Street – Suite 4600
New York, NY 10038
Phone: 212.416.0145 | Fax: 646.500.5629
RKarlin@cchr.nyc.gov | www.nyc.gov/cchr

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2023 | New York, NY 10272

[**<image005.jpg>**](#)



[**<image003.png>**](#)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

LOUIS FLORES,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE,

Defendant.

17-CV-0036 (JK)

AFFIRMATION
OF SERVICE

I, LOUIS FLORES, declare under penalty of perjury that I have served a copy of the attached PLAINTIFF'S LETTER RESPONDING TO DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME upon REBECCA TINIO by E-MAIL to : rebecca.tinio@usdoj.gov.

Dated : Jackson Heights, New York
02 June 2017



Louis Flores
34-21 77th Street, Apt. 406
Jackson Heights, New York 11372
Phone : (929) 279-2292
louis.flores@progressqueens.com